

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food sponsored World Food Day at Black Island Farms in Syracuse, Utah. More than 200 second grade students from Backman Elementary School in Salt Lake City, and Windridge Elementary School in Kaysville saw how carrots, pumpkins, corn, and onions are harvested and processed. The children also toured the Smith's Dairy Facility in Layton to see how milk and other dairy products are processed. Commissioner Cary G. Peterson told the students that in order to appreciate their food, they must see how it is planted, grown and harvested.



top: Commissioner Cary G. Peterson talks to children from Backman and Windridge Elementary schools about where their food comes from during World Food Day.

Free Pesticide Collection Set for November

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's annual free pesticide collection program is set for 9:00 a.m. November 1, 2001 in Santaquin, Utah. Utah farmers or ranchers who wish to dispose of unwanted or unused pesticides may take advantage of the free program, thereby saving themselves hundreds of dollars in disposal fees and ridding the environment of unused pesticide.

USED OIL DISPOSAL

Farmers and ranchers may also dispose of used oil free of charge. The collection site is located at the Santiquine, DOT maintenance road shed, 637 West Highway 6 in Santaquin.

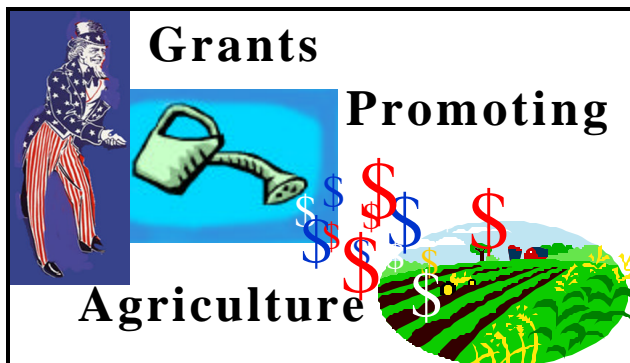
Utah Receives \$697k For Specialty-Crop, Value-Added Agriculture promotion

COMMISSIONER PETERSON CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND INDUSTRY

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is taking grant applications for projects intended to promote and stimulate agricultural production in Utah. The Department received \$697,916 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and will be making its first grant award in June of 2002.

"This grant money is dedicated to enhancing Utah agriculture in ways that generate added revenue directly to farmers and ranchers," said Commissioner Cary G. Peterson.

Utah will use \$500,000 of this award to "support



activities to promote agriculture", and \$140,000 to support "specialty crop production" (except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, and tobacco), and \$57,916 may be used under the Emergency Food Assistance Program. The UDAF is seeking projects to fund and has created a structure to award funds to qualified projects.

Contact Richard Sparks or Randy Parker at (801) 538-7106 for more information, or visit: www.ag.utah.gov/

UTAH AG NEWS

November 2001

2001

Utah Ag Leaders Recognized by Environmental Protection Agency

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING--Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson, and his Chief of Environmental Quality, George Hopkin, were recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their leadership in helping Utah farmers and ranchers improve water quality in Utah. Peterson received the Region 8 "Administrator's Award" and Hopkin received the "Friend of EPA Award".

In recognizing Peterson and Hopkin, Acting Region 8 Administrator Jack McGraw said "Utah has been a leader in developing a state AFO/CAFO strategy that is reflective of farmers and ranchers needs. The Utah AFO/CAFO strategy that incorporates a voluntary, incentive-based approach has been identified as a national model," McGraw said.

In accepting the Region 8 Administrator's Award,



Peterson gave credit to members of his staff and the partnership his agency has with Utah's agriculture industry. "Utah's farmers and ranchers are generally good stewards of the land and water and we want to provide them with additional tools and assistance for making improvements," Peterson said.

Hopkin, who has coordinated UDAF's Environmental Quality Program for over a decade, has been an advocate for farmer and rancher input, championed Utah's voluntary, incentive-based AFO/CAFO Strategy. "The federal, state and private partnership co-chaired by UDAF and Utah Department of Environmental Quality, allowed the state's agricultural organizations ownership in the process and ultimate outcome," Hopkin said.

Governor Christine Todd-Whitman, EPA Administrator joined with the Region 8 staff and state leaders to map out a strategy for the federal/state partnership.

"I recognize that agriculture is impacted by decisions made by EPA and working together is the best way for us to address the issues," Whitman pointed out.

"I am happy with the direction Region 8 is moving and the relationship between our agency and the states. I would like to replicate this relationship in other regions across the U. S."

Service Awards Luncheon

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food employee's service awards luncheon is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 5, 2001 at the State Office Building Auditorium. All UDAF employees will be given time off from their duties to be able to attend the luncheon. The department's "Employee of the Year" will be recognized.

To help with seating and food preparation, please RSVP to your director by Monday, October 29th.

top left: UDAF Commissioner Cary G. Peterson (center) receives the EPA's Administrator Award from (left) Acting Region 8 Administrator Jack McGraw and Governor Christine Todd-Whitman in Jackson Hole, Wyoming October 3.

left: Chief of UDAF's Environmental Quality Program, George Hopkin (second from right), receives the Friend of EPA award from McGraw, Todd-Whitman, and Kerrigan Clough, EPA Region 8 office.

The Latest Information About Chronic Wasting Disease

Each year, with the approach of hunting season, questions arise concerning the possible presence of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Utah's elk and deer herds. There has been no diagnosis of CWD in Utah in wild deer or elk or in private herds. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Division of Wildlife Resources, the USDA, and Utah Elk Breeders remain committed to preventing the introduction of the disease to Utah. The following points may serve to answer some of the questions that have arisen.

- ◆ Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is caused by an infective agent known as a prion protein (PrP) and has been present in deer and elk in NE Colorado and southeastern Wyoming since the late 1960's.
- ◆ CWD has been detected in privately owned elk on 14 elk ranches in 5 states and several ranches in the province of Saskatchewan.

◆ CWD damages the nerve cells of the brain and is one of a group of diseases classified as Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE), which includes Scrapie, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Cruetzfeld-Jacob Disease (CJD), and others.

◆ There has been no evidence of natural transmission of CWD to other livestock or humans.

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has taken steps to development of a program for the eradication of CWD in farmed elk by declaring a disease emergency.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and the Division of Wildlife Resources, with funding support from USDA, has performed surveillance studies to check for Chronic Wasting Disease in Utah. A two-year study of over 750 wild deer and elk in Utah found no positive animals. **Visit www.ag.utah.gov/ for more information.**